



Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program

5 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT STEP

1. **STEP is a federally administered research effort to help improve the understanding of the relationship between surface transportation, planning, and the environment.**
2. **STEP funds can be awarded to state/local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, universities, federal agencies, and the private sector.**
3. **STEP stakeholder input is used to help identify and prioritize STEP research topics.**
4. **STEP funds are used to identify, address and reassess national research priorities for planning, environment and realty.**
5. **More STEP information and research results are available at:**

www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/index.htm

Program Overview

STEP is a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) research program authorized in the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU).



Environment, Planning and Real Estate Initiatives

STEP research improves state of the practice regarding the impact of transportation on the environment.

- Climate Change
- Economic Development Case Studies
- Effects of Commercial Electronic Variable Message Signs on Drivers
- Health and Environmental Benefits of Walking and Biking
- Improving Project Delivery
- Linking Land Use and Planning
- Mobile Source Emissions Analysis
- Stormwater Management Techniques

Supporting Tools

The following STEP tools are developed in partnership with state and local government.

- Census Transportation Planning Package
- FHWA Traffic Noise Model version 3.0 Development
- GIS for Transportation Applications Database
- Global Positioning System Tool for Corridor Vegetation Inventories
- Right of Way Professional Competency Navigator Tool
- Web-based Biological Assessment Tool



STEP Publications

Through STEP funding, the following publications were developed to support the various emphasis areas:

ENVIRONMENT

- Best Practices Manual: Wildlife Vehicle Collision Reduction Study
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Evaluation Study
- Guidebook: Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities
- Impacts of Climate Variability and Change on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure--Gulf Coast Study, Phase I
- State Transportation Liaison Funded Positions Study
- Structural Acoustic Analysis of Piles Study
- Ten (10) Simple Steps to Reducing Climate Change

PLANNING

- A Guide to Transportation Decisionmaking
- A Primer on Safety Performance Measures and the Transportation Planning Process
- Border Master Plans – California/Baja California
- Building Planning Capacity Between Public and Private Sector Partners with the Freight Industry: A Resource Manual
- Statewide Opportunities for Linking Planning and Operations
- The Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

- Real Estate Acquisition Guide for Local Public Agencies
- Utilization of Right of Way Incentive Payments
- International Right of Way and Utility Scan

For further information on each publication, please contact the emphasis area representative.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH STEP

Stakeholders are involved in a variety of ways. The information below provides tips for stakeholder participation.

- Review proposed FY2010 STEP Implementation Strategy, which outlines the likely research priorities for the year at:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/HEP/STEP/strategy.htm

- Develop and submit feedback on suggested lines of research that are related to the proposed STEP research priorities at:

<http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/step/nsf/home>

- Review Annual STEP Plan on the STEP website, once approved by HEP Associate Administrator at:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/HEP/STEP/plans.htm

- After the STEP Plan has been approved, monitor FEDBIZOPPS.GOV. Funding opportunities will be posted at:

www.fbo.gov

STEP CONTACTS

Stakeholders should contact individual STEP emphasis area representatives to discuss the status of research in specific areas. STEP contacts are located on the STEP website—

www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/contacts.htm